Institutions have gone into establishing projects manufacturing DMT|PTA|MEG|Paraxylene etc. by Public Sector Undertaking like IPCL and Bongalgon Refinery Limited, etc.;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these Public Sector units have established adequate capacities to meet the demand and are reported to have accumulated huge stocks of their products because of deep recession in the consuming industries;

(c) whether the proposed Customs Duty relief on petrochemicals is likely to push these public sector units to the wall and make them sick; and

(d) if so, what steps do the Government propose to safeguard the interests of these Public Sector Undertakings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Public Sector Undertakings such as IPCL and Bongaigaon Refinery Ltd., have established projects for manufacturing DMT, MEG and Paraxylene.

(b) The established capacity of the Public Sector Units is not adequate to meet the demand. Government has no report that recession in certain consuming industries has resulted in any accumulation of stocks of these products.

(c) and (d) While fixing the rates of customs duty on petrochemicals, Government have taken note of all relevant factors including the interests of the producing and consuming industries and the need for rationalising the tariff.

Filling up of the post of Chairman State Bank of India

3999. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the post of the Chairman, State Bank of India and its Associate Bank is lying vacant since last year, if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to fill up the said post?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The post of Chairman, State Bank of India (SBI), who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Associate Banks of SBI, was vacant from 1.8.1992 consequent to the retirement of the then Chairman on 31.7.1992.

State Bank of Indore's assistance to sick industries

4000. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the quantum of assistance proposed by the Industrial Reconstruction Division of State Bank of Indore to the sick industries during the last two years and proposed to be provided during the current year, branch-wise details; and

(b) what amount was advanced by the Bank to the sick industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) The quantum of assistance provided by the State Bank of Indore to sick industries under rehabilitation, during the last two years and during the current year, branch-wise is given in the Statement (See below)

(b) The amount advanced by the State Bank of Indore and outstanding